

THE PHARMACOLOGIC PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE—A Textbook on Pharmacology and Therapeutics for Medical Students, Physicians, and the Members of the Professions Allied to Medicine. By John C. Krantz, Jr., Professor of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland and Secretary of the General Committee of Revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia, and C. Jelleff Carr, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1949, 980 pp. \$10.00.

This book fills a definite need for an up-to-date text and reference volume on the fundamentals and practical applications of pharmacology. It should be of especial interest to medical practitioners, who are often unable to secure information regarding the more recent drugs unless they possess the most recent edition of Sollmann.

The book is organized primarily on the basis of physiological systems, with sections on the skin and mucous membranes, central nervous systems, autonomic nervous system, heart and circulation, etc. In addition there are sections on general aspects of pharmacology (drug administration, response of cells to drugs, etc.). An interesting feature not found in most pharmacology books is a collection of photographs of well-known scientists who have contributed greatly to progress in this field.

Examples of some of the more recent drugs discussed include methadon, antimaline, chlorguanide, chloroquine, diasone, dibenamine, dihydroergotamine, folic acid, furacin, marfanil, myanesin, nitrogen mustards, promin and promizole, and some of the antihistaminics (benadryl, pyribenzamine, neoantergan, tramine, thephorin, and histadyl). In general, the newer drugs which are actually used in medical practice are quite well discussed. There is little or no information, however, on aureomycin, chloromycetin, several of the newer antihistaminics (neoheteramine, trimeton, and others), or *p*-aminosalicylic acid. In addition, there is no discussion of procaine-penicillin or procaine-penicillin with aluminum stearate. U.S.P., N.F., and N.N.R. drugs are so designated, and the proprietary names are also given for these agents.

Emphasis is placed more or less equally on the basic pharmacology and on the practical applications (including dosages and administration) of drugs. In a number of cases there are short sections on mechanism of action, including some work on the biochemical aspects of drug action. It would have seemed advisable, however, to have expanded the discussion of mechanisms, especially from the standpoint of maintaining the student's interest in the subject. Structural formulae are given for most of the drugs discussed. Although literature references are not extensive (about ten per chapter), they are well selected with especial emphasis on review articles and recent publications.

The book appears to be quite free of errors, although it was noted that the structure labeled cannabidiol (p. 472) is actually tetrahydrocannabidiol; the statement that cannabidiol evokes the typical narcotic effect of marihuana is untrue.

The volume is very well bound and printed.

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1948 YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL THERAPEUTICS. Edited by Oscar W. Bethea, Ph.M., M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine (retired). The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 1949. \$4.25.

This year book follows the traditional policy of the Year Book series and consists of pertinent summaries of the significant articles on therapeutics in internal medicine that have appeared during the preceding year. Brief editorial comment is appended from time to time, adding to the value of the discussions.

The book can be recommended as a review of the significant therapeutic advances of the previous year. It is the belief of the reviewer that even more critical editorial comment would be preferable.

NUTRITION AND DIET IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By James S. McLester, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama, Fifth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$9.00.

The general practitioner and internist alike should welcome a new edition of this very fine book. The author has reduced the volume by 40 pages, and this reviewer feels sure that in subsequent editions it will be further reduced in a manner to be more manageable and available for ready reference.

Here in one volume is incorporated all the fundamental information concerning food, dietetically, nutritionally, and biochemically, as well as its uses in the maintenance of sound health and as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of disease. Each topic is handled logically; nothing pertinent to the physician's understanding of the subject of nutrition in health and disease is omitted. The major part of the book, which deals with nutrition in disease, could be made more pertinent by the deletion of controversial subjects. The organization of the therapeutic regimen in outline form would be decidedly advantageous. All of the necessary information on the subject of diet in disease is contained in the volume, but the busy physician must take time to read the text in order to find the specific information he seeks. Since the volume is designed for the practitioner of medicine, many of the bibliographic references appended to each chapter might profitably be deleted. On the whole the book is excellent. It is the most practical reference book in the field. A copy should be readily available in the library of every physician.

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CLINICAL ORTHOPTICS—DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By Mary Everist Kramer, Supervisor, The Orthoptic Department, The George Washington University Hospital, Washington, D. C. Edited by Ernest A. W. Sheppard, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology, The George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington, D. C. and Louisa Well-Kramer, Certified Orthoptic Technician, Washington, D. C., 147 Illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1949. \$8.00.

This is the first American book on orthoptics and fills a long-felt need for a text to be used in the training of orthoptic technicians.

The first 125 pages are taken up by a discussion of anatomy, embryology, the visual pathways and the physiology of the eye. While this may seem a good deal of space to devote to these subjects in a book of this type, it appears to the reviewer to be worthwhile and will in all probability make the subject more understandable to the orthoptic student.

The chapter on optics is brief, taking up the essential points in a clear fashion, thus avoiding the confusion that might arise from too detailed a discussion.

The subject of orthoptics is clearly discussed so that the student is able to understand it. The place of orthoptics in ophthalmology is clearly and fairly evaluated, no undue claims being made for the possibilities of the results that can be obtained with its use, especially in the squinting child. The illustrations, which were made for this book, are good, especially the line drawings.

At the end of each chapter is a list of questions which should prove useful to the student in determining whether or not he has obtained a proper understanding of the subject.

As is to be expected in a book of this type, there are some controversial statements, but on the whole there is little to criticize.

The book can be highly recommended and is the best available in the American literature. The format comes up to the usual high Mosby standards.